

(as defined by §4(c)(1) of VEO) fall within the meaning of the "competitive service" as the latter term is used in 5 USC §§3309-3312?

(2) In the absence of any such "competitive service" positions in the legislative branch, what, if any, positions held by "covered employees" are subject to a merit-based system of appointment (which may include examinations, testing, evaluation, scoring and such other elements that are common to the "competitive service" of the executive branch)?

(3) Does VEO authorize the Board to extend the rights and protections of veterans' preference for purposes of appointment to those positions identified in (2) above notwithstanding they are not technically "competitive service" positions?

(4) In order to provide for effective implementation of veterans' preference rights, could the Board, under the "good cause" provision of §4(c)(4)(B) and VEO, modify the most relevant substantive regulations of the executive branch pertaining to veterans' preference in the appointment of "covered employees" so as to make them applicable to the legislative branch without reference to the "competitive service"?

(5) How would the rights and protections of subchapter I of chapter 35, Title 5 USC (pertaining to retention during RIFs), be applied to "covered employees" (as defined by §4(c)(1) of VEO)?

(6) Does VEO authorize the Board to extend the rights and protections of veterans' preference for purposes of retention during reductions in force to "covered employees" holding positions that are not technically within the "competitive service" or the "excepted service"?

(7) In order to provide for effective implementation of veterans' preference rights, could the Board, under the "good cause" provision of §4(c)(4)(B) of VEO, modify the most relevant substantive regulations of the executive branch pertaining to veterans' preference in the retention of "covered employees" during reductions in force so as to make them applicable to the legislative branch without reference to the "competitive service" or the "excepted service"?

(8) In view of the fact that VEO does not explicitly grant the Board the authority exercised by OPM under 5 USC §§1103, 1104, 1301 and 1302 to execute, administer, and enforce the federal civil service system, does the Board have the authority to propose regulations that would vest the Board with responsibilities similar to OPM's over employment practices involving covered employees in the legislative branch?

(9) Is the Board empowered by the statute to give effect to the comment in the legislative history that employing offices of the legislative branch should "create systems that are consistent with the underlying principles of veterans' preference laws," as discussed by the Senate Report accompanying the bill enacted as VEO (Sen. Rept. 105-340, 105th Cong., 2d Sess., at 17 (Sept. 21, 1998)? If so, how should such effect be given?

(10) Under VEO, what steps, if any, must employing offices of the legislative branch take to "create systems that are consistent with the underlying principles of veterans' preference laws," as discussed by the Senate Report accompanying the bill enacted as VEO (Sen. Rept. 105-340 (105th Cong., 2d Sess. Sept. 21, 1998), at 17)?

(11) With respect to positions restricted to preference eligible individuals under 5 USC §3310, namely guards, elevator operators, messengers, and custodians, the Board seeks information and comment on the following issues and questions:

(a) The identity, in the legislative branch, of guard, elevator operator, messenger, and custodian positions within the meaning of these terms under 5 USC §3310.

(b) The identity of covered employing offices responsible for personnel decisions affecting employees who fill positions of guard, elevator operator, messenger, and custodian within the meaning of 5 USC §3310 and the implementing regulations.

(c) Would police officers and other employees of the United States Capitol Police be considered "guards" under the application of the rights and protections of this section to covered employees under VEO?

(d) Whether the current methods of hiring include an entrance examination within the meaning of 5 CFR §330.401 and, if not, whether the affected employing offices believe that the statute mandates the creation of such an examination and/or allows such an examination to be required of the employing offices?

(e) What changes, if any, in the regulations are required to effectuate the rights and protections of 5 USC §3310 as applied by VEO?

(12) Which executive branch regulations, if any, should not be adopted because they are promulgated to implement inapplicable statutory provisions of veterans' preference law or are otherwise inapplicable to the legislative branch?

(13) What modification, if any, of the executive branch regulations would make them more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections made applicable under VEO as provided by VEO §4(c)(4)(B)?

Signed at Washington, DC, on this 16th day of February, 2000.

GLEN D. NAGER,  
*Chair of the Board,*  
*Office of Compliance.*

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6520. A letter from the Under Secretary, Research Education, and Economics, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Stakeholder Input Requirements for Recipients of Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension Formula Funds (RIN: 0584-AA23) received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6521. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting the annual report detailing test and evaluation activities of the Foreign Comparative Testing Program during FY 1999, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2350a(g); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6522. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting Final Report Chiropractic Health Care Demonstration Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6523. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2000 "International Narcotics Control Strategy Report," pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291(b)(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

6524. A letter from the Acting Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation: Foreign Acquisition (Part 25 Re-write) [FAC 97-15; FAR Case 97-024; Item II] (RIN: 9000-AH30) received January 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6525. A letter from the Director, Executive Office of the President, Office of Administration, transmitting the Integrity Act reports for each of the Executive Offices of the President, as required by the Federal Man-

agers' Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6526. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fishery; Suspension of Minimum Surf Clam Size for 2000 [I.D. 122299B] received January 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6527. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Pacific Yellow Tuna Fisheries; Closure of U.S. Purse Seine Fishery for Yellowfin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No. 991207319-9319-01; I.D. 120899A] received January 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6528. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Closures of Specified Groundfish Fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 991223348-9348-01; I.D. 122399A] received January 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6529. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting a copy of the Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States, held in Washington D.C., on September 15, 1999, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 331; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6530. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Garrison, ND [Airspace Docket No. 99-AGL-51] received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6531. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Burlington, VT [Airspace Docket No. 99-ANE-93] received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6532. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Burlington, VT [Airspace Docket No. 99-ANE-94] received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6533. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; O'Neill, NE [Airspace Docket No. 99-ACE-55] received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6534. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Grand Island, NE [Airspace Docket No. 99-ACE-56] received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6535. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Ord, NE [Airspace Docket No. 00-ACE-2] received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6536. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Remove Class D and Class E Airspace; Kansas City, Richards-Gebaur Airport, MO [Airspace Docket No. 00-ACE-4] received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6537. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Creston, IA [Airspace Docket No. 00-ACE-1] received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6538. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Monticello, IA [Airspace Docket No. 00-ACE-5] received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6539. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 97-NM-186-AD; Amendment 39-11468; AD 99-26-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 11, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6540. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-262-AD; Amendment 39-11463; AD 99-26-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 11, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6541. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, and -200C Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-189-AD; Amendment 39-11466; AD 99-26-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 11, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6542. A letter from the Deputy Executive Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) and Native Employment Works (NEW) Program (RIN: 0970-AB78) received February 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6543. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Comments on Items for Year 2000 Published Guidance Priority List [Notice 2000-10] received January 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### REPORTED BILL SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 3244. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means for a period ending not later than March 24, 2000, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment recommended by the Committee on International Relations as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(s), rule X.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey:

H.R. 3871. A bill to establish a Federal Internet Crimes Against Children computer training facility; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut (for herself, Mrs. THURMAN, and Mr. SHAYS):

H.R. 3872. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a deduction for qualified long-term care insurance premiums, use of such insurance under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, and a credit for individuals with long-term care needs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H.R. 3873. A bill to assist local educational agencies in financing and establishing alternative education systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. COYNE, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OBEY, Mr. LAFALCE, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. WISE, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. WYNN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. KIND, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. WU, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CAPPS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. LARSON, Ms. BERKLEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PHELPS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

H.R. 3874. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COLLINS (for himself, Mr. TANNER, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mrs. THURMAN):

H.R. 3875. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain steam or other vapor generating boilers used in nuclear facilities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COYNE:

H.R. 3876. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Baytron P; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COYNE:

H.R. 3877. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimethyl dicarbonate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GEJDENSON:

H.R. 3878. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to convey land to the town of Thompson, Connecticut, for fire fighting and emergency services purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GEJDENSON (for himself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. LEE, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mr. WEXLER):

H.R. 3879. A bill to support the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone in its peace-building efforts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for

consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 3880. A bill to increase the amount of student loans that may be forgiven for service as a teacher in a school with a high concentration of low-income students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

H.R. 3881. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 4.3-cent increases in motor fuel taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. INSLEE (for himself, Mr. DICKS, Mr. METCALF, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 3882. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to conduct studies and to carry out ecosystem restoration and other protective measures within Puget Sound, Washington, and adjacent waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KUCINICH (for himself, Mr. METCALF, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Ms. LEE):

H.R. 3883. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the safety of genetically engineered foods; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. LAFALCE (for himself, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. WEYGAND, Ms. LEE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H.R. 3884. A bill to amend section 203 of the National Housing Act to provide for 1 percent downpayments for FHA mortgage loans for teachers and public safety officers to buy homes within the jurisdictions of their employing agencies; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 3885. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the programs relating to organ procurement and transplantation; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. LEACH (for himself, Mr. LAFALCE, Mrs. ROUKEMA, and Mr. VENTO):

H.R. 3886. A bill to combat international money laundering, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LEACH, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BONIOR, and Ms. BERKLEY):

H.R. 3887. A bill to promote primary and secondary health promotion and disease prevention services and activities among the elderly, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add preventive benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 3888. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the disclosure of certain information by persons